PERSHING CHATTER

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THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Hi! Well, what do you know? It's about time for Christmas. No, don't be alarmed. This isn't another funny story of silly incidents. It can't be. Even though Christmas is a time to be happy, most of us are not sure what we're happy about. Maybe it's that bracelet or new bike we're expecting, or maybe some smart person has finally figured out what Christmas is really for.

When people take the word "Christ" from Christmas and write "Xmas," do they really understand the word? They can't. They have taken the true meaning from the word. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son."

People say they know what Christmas is about, but do they really understand it? We have been taught since early childhood about Christ and Christmas. They go together; but now people think only of the gifts they will give or receive. Remember, we celebrate Christmas in honor of the birth of Christ. Gifts were given as a token of love and good will.

Take in mind this Christmas all the things you have to be thankful for. Go to the church of your choice, get into the real spirit of Christmas—the spirit Christmas was meant for. "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—Sabra Stratton.

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WANT YOUR NAME IN THE CHATTER

Want to get your name in the CHATTER? Well, here's how. The Chatter wants to know about the activities here at Pershing. Now don't misunderstand me! We don't want gossip or articles that might hurt someone's feelings. We would like funny incidents that occur around the school grounds. The Chatter also wants news about homeroom and club activities, dances and parties, and anything else that would be of interest to everyone. Remember, the Chatter is your school paper. We want you to have a part in making it a good paper as well as an interesting one. Keep your eyes open for interesting news. If you have any news, please drop it into the Chatter box in the office. We'll do all we can to get your article in the paper.—Paula Cox.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

What do you know about Christmas? Here is a little quiz to test your knowledge of Christmas, the birthday of Jesus Christ.

1. Who was King of Judea when Jesus was born?
2. What are the names of the three kings who brought gifts to Jesus?
3. What were the gifts the three kings brought?
4. Why is Mistletoe used at Christmas?
5. Where were Christmas carols first sung?
6. Where did the Christmas tree originate?
7. How many years lapsed between Jesus' birth and the first Christmas celebration?
8. Who wrote "The Night Before Christmas"?
9. Who was the main character in Dickens' "Christmas Carol"?
10. Who was the deceased partner in the same story?
11. What great painters are famous for their Nativity scenes?
12. Where do we get the word Yule?
13. How is Christmas celebrated in the town where Jesus was born?
14. What famous composer wrote "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"?
15. Who wrote "Silent Night"?
16. What book in the Bible tells the complete story of Christmas?

The Littlest Tree

It was about a week before Christmas and there was sorrow in the big forest of fir trees. A very tiny tree wanted so badly to be someone's Christmas tree. Many times he had pictured himself all decorated with tinsel and a big, shining star on the top of him. "But," he thought, "you have to be big and strong ,and I'll never be big because of these huge trees shading me from the sun and rain." And he was a very sad little tree. The only things he knew that liked little tiny trees were birds. Birds could build nests in the littlest tree, and be comfortable in the smallest branches.

In a town near by, lived John Coker, and his wife and son Johnny. The Cokers were very poor and could not buy a Christmas tree. They were trying to find a way to get one. Suddenly Johnny exclaimed "Let's go to the forest and chop down our own little tree!" "What a wonderful idea," cried Mrs. Coker. "Let's pick out a tree tomorrow," Johnny said.

The very next day found Johnny and his father going to the forest to get a tree. Many of the prettier ones were near the edge of the forest. Johnny wanted to see all of the trees though, so they went deeper and deeper into the forest. They saw many big, stately trees, but Johnny was not satisfied. "I want a small one just so high," he indicated with his hand. "The big ones would be too large to carry home, and we don't have a car or sled. And we couldn't even make enough decorations for it."

Suddenly, Johnny stopped and pointed. "Daddy, that is the tree I want!" The little tree's heart leapt, then fell again." Surely they wouldn't want a tiny, scrawny tree like me," he thought. Still, as Johnny and his father came closer, the little tree hoped it had been him that they had chosen. He was exultant as Mr. Coker began to cut his trunk.

Back at home, Mrs. Coker was as happy as Mr. Coker and Johnny over the small tree.

The little tree was not decorated with shining tinsel, but with paper chains, and popcorn on strings, and instead of a beautiful star, there was a lopsided cardboard one, but the little tree was the happiest of all on Christmas. He was a Christmas tree to be admired by all the neighborhood. He was truly a beautiful one.

—Sally Stuart

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HOME EC GIRLS—

(Continued from Page 1)

calls for pounds. They are also making lucious cherry fruit cakes.

Besides all of the wonderful projects the home economics department also took up the donations and fixed the baskets for the needy families.

RAMBLIN' ROUND

By Terry Van Wagner

Gee, how time does fly! Already another deadline has passed, it's almost time for the Christmas holidays, and I'm still receiving news.

Hey kids, have you met our new assistant librarian, Miss Kirchman? We hear she is getting married the first of the year. The wedding will be in Houston and she and her husband will live in New Orleans.

Mrs. Dodson's English classes have a new teacher till the end of the semester. The teacher is Mrs. Wiegand (Yep, Skippy's mother). Mrs. Wiegand says she likes Pershing very much.

This time since it's so near to Christmas I'm going to write a letter to Santa Claus. So. take heed, Santa!

Dear Santa Claus,

Here is what we want for Christmas here at Pershing.

Judy Whitehurst says she doesn't want anything. I wonder why? Judy, 'fess up.

Larry Wolf wants Fran Leeland wrapped up in a Christmas box, with a big red ribbon.

Eileen McMahan has the one thing that she wanted, so Santa Claus (Mrs. McMahan) take notice.

Kent Watts wants a hearing aid for his sister. I think that's the right Christmas spirit—always thinking of others.

Sherry Evans is always talking about Roy Rogers. For Christmas she wants Roy Rogers in a Cadillac convertible.

Mike Van Dorfy, when asked what he would like for a Christmas present, answered with a smile, "My driver's license." His mother said he was going to get $100 worth of insurance.

Pat Swanzey said, "I want a little red wagon to carry all my books in. Golly, Santa, you'd better give her a big one—then she can carry all our books.

Tommy Tune wanted to be a little bit taller so he could talk to Richard Keitt without having to bend his neck.

Ruthie Castor would like an all "A" report card. I don't know what it would take to help her—a whole set of encyclopedias, perhaps.

The CHATTER CLUB would like you, "Santa Baby," to tell everyone that we are having a dance on January 8 and we would like to see all the guys and gals from Pershing there.

Sally Stuart, as usual, wants a certain boy in her science class. If she can't have him, I guess she'd like a little tin soldier.

Paula Cox, bless her little heart, wants two tiny tear dolls.

Phyllis Walker says if you come to her house she will leave you some sandwiches, cookies, and a quart of milk but please leave her a record of "Santa Baby."

Yours truly,
Terry Van

Mary Ann Graff. Ann Gocke, Sally Stuart and Patricia Swanzey gave a wonderful dance on November 21, a great time was had by everybody.

Judy Faulkner, Eileen McMahan and yours truly are having a dance on December the 26th at the Bellaire Community Hall. Another dance is going to be given by Kay Montgomery and Bill Weaver on January 2. Sure are a lot of dances going on during the holidays. Just remember, kids—school is out on December the 18th and starts again on January 4. That's two weeks and two days that we get for Christmas holidays.

What teacher was heard to say, "Some of you may have seen this movie before, and if so you may take a short nap while it is being shown but please don't snore too loud!!!"

Don't forget the CHATTER DANCE on January 8. Come one and all and have a good time.

PANDA CUB ALBUM

? ? ? ?

By Tommy Tune

In the following jingle there is a clue to lead to the identity of the picture in "Panda Cub Album" today.

In "Panda Cub Album" we ponder today,
With bells ringing loudly all of the way.

As we turn through the pages of yester-year,
We find something wrong, I do fear.

From a baby picture lost is its name,
And such a cute child it is a shame.

Please help us identify this little girl,
By guessing her name in a skip and a twirl.

You guessed it! Charles and Kay Knapp were the mystery subjects in the "Panda Cub Album," in the last issue of the Chatter.

Kay, a member of Mrs. Jones' homeroom, was in the royal court of last year's May Fete, 7th Grade Sweetheart of Blanton Memorial, past-president of her homeroom, twice gym team captain and president of her club, "The Junior Journalism Club."

Charles is a player on Pershing's football team, past president and chairman of his homeroom and counselor of his homeroom now. After Lamar he plans to attend S. M. U.

Thanks kids for playing in our game!

To Future Teachers

Within our hands will soon be
placed the destiny of our
race.

It will be our task to see that the
youth learn the need of
filling their place.

We are the Future Teachers:
Teachers in a band,

And we see our duty as a great
one in our land.

We'll do our level best to guide
the children's lives,

And lead them to a future that
will make our country
thrive.

Dance Is Given For Low Nines

A dance was given recently honoring Pershing's low niners. The purpose of this was to get all of the students acquainted with each other and to get them together, and show hem what a good time they can have.

The date was Friday, December 1. It took place from seven-thirty to ten-thirty, in the school cafeteria.

The dance was planned by Mrs. Charles Fay, chairman of the low ninth grade, and the room mothers from every low-nine homeroom. Each room assisted with refreshments, which consisted of coke and cookies. There were many kinds of games to play and plenty of good music to dance to.

This dance was one of the best that Pershing has ever had and the students appreciate the work and efforts of the room mothers.

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Rub a Dub Dub on the Good Ship Lollipop!

"Lili" is my name. I'm an old "Sea Devil," and "All I Desire" is to go "Crusin' Down the River" "From Here to Eternity" with "The Kid from Left Field," "Shane." He's the "Man from the Alamo," you know, and the "All American."

When and if I sail, it will be "On the Good Ship Lollipop" ("It Came from Outer Space"). The passenger list will contain the names of "Houdini," "Julius Caesar," "The Master of Ballantrae," "Melba," "The President's Lady," "Salome," "Young Bess," and "Vicki" ("The White Witch Doctor").

Several days ago I took a young friend of mine who was really "The All American" "Little Boy Lost," to visit a local Boy Scout troop. His name is Dobie Gillis, and according to "Mister Scoutmaster," the "Affairs of Dobie Gillis" during the last few days have been almost incomparable. He is really learning "The Importance of Being Earnest," and is the "Juggler" of his troop.

Oh! "April in Paris," "The City That Never Sleeps." My "Return to Paradise." I arrived in Paris via "The Bandwagon," after enjoying a "Roman Holiday."

"Shane" just returned from a "Mission Over Korea," "Above and Beyond" the call of duty. Now that he is back, we shall go cruisin' down "The Cruel Sea," "Thunder Bay."

Who says "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"? Heck, I'm a brunette and "Shane" is going to "Take Me to Town" before we sail.

Really, I'm "Scared Stiff," but I sure am happy!

—By Sherry Evans

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Did You Know?

A good disposition makes friends everwhere?

Much of the ills of today are caused by selfishness?

Faith is one of the forces by which we live?

You can destroy your enemies by making them your friends?

When we give, we have more room to receive, as giving is the multiplying quality of one's life?

All that you contribute to the lives of others will some day come back into your own?

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

PANDA PERSONALITIES

RICHARD KEITT

Extra! Extra! "Football player elected Panda Personality." He not only plays football but he is also on the basketball team and is intramural captain, too.

Attention! All girls! Our ninth grade Panda is six feet tall, has brown hair, brown eyes and his ambition is to be a bank president. Wow, what a combination.

To top off his list of favorites are color, baby blue; food, fried liver; drink, skimmed milk; song, "Open the Door, Richard"; sport, badminton; teacher, Mrs. Huggins; subject, English. His pet peeve is girls that don't chase after him. His hobby is girls and we hear they go for him, too.

If you haven't guessed who he is by now, he's Richard Keitt and he plans to go to Lamar and then to the University of Texas.

JANE YODER

"The girl of this month is the sweetest girl of all the girls we know. The blue of her eyes and the brown of her hair are a blend of her five feet one."

"Oh, Captain! My Captain!" describes one of the honors of this month's eighth grade Panda Personality. (Gym team captain twice.) Other honors include assistant chairman, homeroom treasurer, Student Council representative and best of all one of our CHATTER reporters.

Her favorite song is "You, You, You." Other favorites are: movie stars, Esther Williams and Richard Todd; boy. Larry Allen; color, red; food, hamburgers; drink, pepsi cola; teacher, Mrs. Durrenberger, and hobby, playing the piano.

We of the CHATTER are very sure that Jane Yoder will be just as popular at Lamar and Texas as she is here at Pershing.

Happy cooking to you, Jane! Jane plans to be a dietitian after she finishes school.

JIMMY WILLIAMS

For this Christmas issue the CHATTER staff has selected Jimmy Williams as the seventh grade Panda Personality.

Jimmy is in Mrs. Fornell's high seventh registration. He is just a little over five feet in height, has light brown hair, and weighs 110 pounds.

Hsi favorites are: subject, social studies; teacher, Mrs. Jones; color, green; food, hamburgers; drink, root beer; song, "Mexican Joe."

Jimmy plans to go to Lamar as soon as he leaves Pershing and then on to the University of Houston or Rice Institute.

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Living in Foreign Land Is Interesting Experience

Pershing has many students who lived in foreign countries last year. These students report many interesting experiences.

Jerry Norman, in Mrs. Cox's Low 9 homeroom, lived in Rangoon, the capitol of Burma. A few miles to the north battles were being fought against the Communists.

During his stay Jerry had to live behind barred windows because the battles brought many mobs and burglars. While in Rangoon Jerry had to miss one year of school because his father's work would not permit them to leave.

In addtion to his stay there, Jerry has also traveled completely around the world.

Chris Irish lived in Puerto Rico for ten months last year. She is in Mrs. Scarborough's homeroom, and says she likes Pershing very much.

Chris attended a Spanish-American school while she was living in Puerto Rico. She tells us that the island is as modern and up to date as our own country.

Chris enjoyed living in Puerto Rico very much, but she says she is glad to be back in the states.

Joanne Donnelly, a 9th grader here at Pershing, spent her second Christmas aboard a ship in Pearl Harbor. That was in 1941, the year that Pearl Harbor was bombed.

Although Joanne was too young to remember much about it, she recalls that there was a bomb dropped in her driveway that almost exploded!

She was in Pearl Harbor because her father was stationed on a ship there.

Joanne has been back in the states for several years and now lives here in Houston.

Leaving with his parents for Bogota, Colombia, about eight years ago, was a six year old boy. His name was John Griswold. John's father was sent to Bogota by the Schlumberger Company.

Upon arriving they found a brick house on the outskirts of town. There they sometimes enjoyed the convenience of two and three servants a day.

During their stay there was a rebellion in which one of the candidates for President was killed.

In Bogota John attended an American school. There were nice buildings, parks, and schools in Bogota. And although it was different and interesting, John was very happy to get back to the United States.

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YULETIDE YEARNINGS

The time is drawing near when the jolly old man with the long white beard will be making his yearly visits to houses leaving gifts and favors for everyone.

The question most frequently asged at Pershing around this time is, "What is Santa bringing you?"

It would be a safe bet that the best deportment grades are received at mid-term!

What's the meaning of all this? It means, simply, that Christmas is on its way!

Yes, Christmas is a very special season. It is a time of many uncommon happenings. Occasionally Bob Barnett prepares his lessons. And during the Yuletide season the boys' gym teachers don't have to give as many pops and Bonnie van Griethuysen works a little harder on her straight "A" average. Yes, folks, you really notice a big difference around Pershing toward the end of December.

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Christmas Quiz Answers

1. Herod.
2. Melchior, Casper, Balthazar.
3. Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.
4. Because people of the Northern countries held it sacred and thought it held marvelous powers.
5. In the early church where Nativity plays were given.
6. In Germany.
7. 200 years.
8. C. C. Moore.
9. Scrooge.
10. Morley.
11. Fra Angelice, Sandro Botticelli.
12. From the Teutonic peoples of Northern Europe who called the gay mid-winter festival month Yule.
13. Church dignitaries carrying a wax image of the Infant Jesus lead a long procession through Bethlehem to the Church of the Nativity. Here services are held.
14. F. Mendelssohn, in 1840.
15. F. Gruber. in 1818.
16. St. Luke, chapter 2.

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Riddles for the Wise

Q. What kind of party would jail-birds like?

A. Open-House.

Q. Why did the little red house call for a doctor?

A. Because it had a window pane.

Q. If a man gave one son ten cents and another son fifteen cents, what time would it be?

A. A quarter to two.

Q. What happens to little girls who eat bullets?

A. Their hair grows out in bangs.

Q. What kind of a tree do little boys climb to get cookies and jam?

A. A pan tree (pantry).

Q. When is a door good to eat?

A. When it is jammed.

Q. What is an example of wasted energy?

A. Telling a "hair raising" story to a bald man.

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